

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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SAM-01 EB-07 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 /106 W

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P R 281424Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5780

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAG: PFOR, IS, US, EG, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS STORIES ABOUT UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS ON FEB 28 GIVES WIDE COVERAGE TO VARIETY OF WASHINGTON-BASED STORIES COMMENTING ON ALLEGED US, ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WASHINGTON DATELINED JERUSALEM POST STORY BY BLITZER LEAD PARAGRAPH STATE QUOTE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IS EXPECTED TO CENTER ON ACHIEVING A SUITABLE COMBINATION OF DIRECT EGYPTIAN ASSURANCES TO ISRAEL IN A FORMAL SIGNED DOCUMENT AND IN A SEPARATE SET OF BILATERAL EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN AND ISRAEL-AMERICAN LETTERS. END QUOTE. THE STORY CONTINUES: QUOTE INFORMED SOURCES HERE SAID YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL WILL INSIST ON A FORMAL DOCUMENT SIGNED BY EGYPT CONVEYING CERTAIN ASSURANCES ON NON-BELLIGERENCY, BUT JERUSALEM MIGHT ALSO BE WILLING TO RELY ON SOME EGYPTIAN ASSURANCES MADE TO THE US AND LATER CONVEYED TO ISRAEL. BUT...ISRAEL WILL STAND FIRM ON ITS DEMAND THAT EGYPT SIGN A DOCUMENT WITH ISRAEL THAT CAN BE MADE PUBLIC...KISSINGER TOLD A GROUP OF JEWISH

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LEADERS TUESDAY THAT HIS MAJOR PROBLEM WILL BE TO EXACT THE

NECESSARY PUBLIC CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT NEEDED TO OBTAIN AN ISRAELI PULLBACK. BUT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT SECRETARY WILL SUCCEED DURING THIS ROUND OF TALKS. UNQUOTE. BLITZER GOES ON TO MENTION TANNER'S ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES WHICH QUOTES EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AS SAYING ISRAEL WILL SETTLE FOR A VAGUE EGYPTIAN ASSURANCE TO THE US RATHER THAN TO ISRAEL.

3. OTHER ISRAELI PAPERS CARRY SIMILAR STORIES. MAARIV HEADLINES A STORY BY SEGEV WHO REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH HE IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT QUOTE MUST BE A FORMAL AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY BOTH SIDES PUBLICLY. UNQUOTE. SEGEV GOES ON THAT SECRETARY IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN BACKGROUND CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD ALREADY GOT QUOTE FRAMEWORK TO AN AGREEMENT UNQUOTE BUT ADMITTING THAT CLAUSES HAD NOT BEEN CONCLUDED YET AND A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT AND STUBBORNNESS WILL BE NEEDED TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT.

4. YEDIOT, IN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY KIWITY, SAYS QUOTE WHAT DR. KISSINGER IS LIKELY TO PROPOSE AS A FORMULA FOR THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INTERIM SETTLEMENT, CIRCLES CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAY, IS THE SURRENDER OF ABU RODEIS TO EGYPT, THE 'NEUTRALIZATION' OF THE PASSES, AND A VAGUE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN 'RENUNCIATION' OF WAR AS LONG AS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT CONTINUES. THE COMING KISSINGER TRIP IS BEING DESCRIBED IN WASHINGTON AS A 'SUPREME AND LAST' BID FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. NEITHER ISRAEL NOR EGYPT KNOW WHAT KISSINGER PLANS, SOURCES STRESS; BUT HE THINKS THAT HE CAN ACHIEVE INTERIM SETTLEMENT IN TERMS OF HIS PLAN, AND FEELS THAT IN GOING TO MIDDLE EAST THIS TIME, HE IS BETTING ON A CERTAINTY. THE 'VISIBLE' PARTS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, SOURCES ADD, WILL MAINLY CONSIST OF COMMITMENTS EGYPT HAS ALREADY MADE, THOUGH NOT OPENLY, A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING TO OPEN CANAL, TO ALLOW ISRAELI CARGOES TO PASS, AND TO REHABILITATE THE CANAL TOWNS. THERE WILL ALSO BE SOME CLAUSES IN SIGNED AGREEMENT ABOUT ECONOMIC WARFARE. INSTEAD OF OFFICIAL NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION DEMANDED BY ISRAEL, EACH SIDE WILL PUBLISH A STATEMENT 'RENOUNCING' WAR AS LONG AS 'PRACTICAL, SINCERE' EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUE, NOT ONLY WITH EGYPT, BUT ALSO WITH SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS. FOR THE PASSES, KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE A 'SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT' THAT WILL GIVE NEITHER SIDE ADVANTAGE: THEY ARE TO BE MILITARILY NEUTRALIZED BY BISECTION, WITH EGYPT HOLDING THE WESTERN APPROACHES, ISRAEL THE WESTERN, BOTH WITH TOKEN FORCES, WHILE A UN FORCE HOLDS THE MIDDLE, EXCEPT FOR EGYPTIAN FORCE HOLDING WEST END OF PASSES, ENTIRE 60 KM BELT TO BE EVACUATED BY EGYPT WILL BE DEMILITARIZED. ANOTHER

'OPEN' CLAUSE MAY CONTAIN MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE UN MANDATE TO REMAIN IN FORCE WITHOUT NEED TO EXTEND IT PERIODICALLY, FOR WHOLE DURATION OF SETTLEMENT. AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FOR DIVISION OF PASSES, SOURCES MENTION AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAVE ISRAEL IN POSSESSION OF PASSES IN RETURN FOR SOME WITHDRAWAL ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. KISSINGER IT IS LEARNED, TOLD JEWISH LEADERS ON TUESDAY THAT HE THINKS SADAT IS ACTUALLY PREPARED TO GIVE MUCH MORE THAN ONE WOULD FROM HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. ONE OF LONGER-RANGE POSSIBILITIES KISSINGER IS STUDYING, IT IS LEARNED, IS JOINT US-USSR GUARANTEE FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. SOVIETS ARE SAID TO HAVE HINTED TO HIM THAT THEY DO NOT OBJECT TO PARTIAL SINAI SETTLEMENT AND WILL EVEN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE MODERATE STANCE BY SYRIAN. GENEVA CONFERENCE, IT IS LEARNED, WILL NOT MEET IN PLENARY SESSION BEFORE MAY OR EVEN JUNE, BUT INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED AT GENEVA IN APRIL. AL GOMHOURIYA WRITES THAT THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS 'ALMOST FINALLY ASSURED' AND THAT AS SOON AS THIS IS CERTAIN AS A RESULT OF KISSINGER VISIT, SADAT WILL ANNOUNCE ITS CONTENTS IN A SPEECH TO THE NATION. UN QUOTE.

5. HAARETZ HAS STORY BY WASHINGTON-BASED MARGALIT ALONG SIMILAR LINES. MARGALIT SAYS THAT QUOTE ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE PLEASED WITH MOOD IN EGYPT, BUT WARN THAT CHANCES OF SETTLEMENT ARE NOT AS GOOD AS EGYPTIANS PROFESS IN PUBLIC (EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SPOKE OF MERELY OF 10 PERCENT CHANCE THAT ISRAEL WOULD TAKE TURN IN WRONG DIRECTION AT LAST MOMENT). ONE REASON FOR EGYPT'S OPTIMISM IS BELIEF THAT ISRAEL HAS DROPPED ITS DEMAND FOR COMMITMENT TO SEVERAL YEARS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. ISRAEL WILL CONTENT ITSELF WITH ASSURANCES WHICH ARE LESS DEFINITE AND ARE ADDRESSED TO THE US: EGYPT IS PREPARED TO TELL WASHINGTON THAT ITS ARMED FORCES WILL NOT START WAR AS LONG AS THERE IS REGULAR PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. UNCLASSIFIED

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SYRIA AND PLO HAVE NOTIFIED EGYPT THAT THEY WOULD REGARD STATEMENT THAT EGYPT WILL NOT FIGHT ISRAEL FOR A SPECIFIED LENGTH OF TIME AS HOSTILE ACT. MEANWHILE, HARD BARGAINING CONTINUES ALMOST DAILY BETWEEN EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND US AMBASSADOR EILTS. END QUOTE. KEATING

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